

Out  
Environ

# Keeping it clean

with Bill Dodds

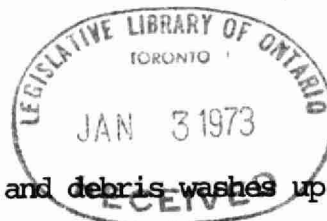


CA2 ON  
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FOR RELEASE: January 3, 1972<sup>3</sup>

Sportsmen on ice...



Every spring and through early summer, litter and debris washes up on the beaches of some of our most popular lakes.

If you see the lake only in summer, you would wonder where it all comes from. If you visit it in winter, you'd know.

Some of the dedicated sportsmen, who ride snowmobiles across the ice in sub-zero temperatures and spend days crouched over a hole ice-fishing, are not dedicated enough. In far too many cases, the garbage they accumulate gets left behind.

As if that weren't enough, a remarkable number of ice-fisherman revert to sanitary arrangements that are primitive to say the least.

And there are always a few fisherman who, through forgetfulness or through the press of business demands on their time, don't get back to the ice in time to take their fishing huts off before the thaw.

Ontario's Ministries of the Environment and Natural Resources are trying to reach all the sportsmen who enjoy our lakes in winter with a reminder that they have a responsibility to clean up after themselves.

The message is simple enough-- Keep garbage bags in ice fishing huts and litter bags on snowmobiles and use them. And if there is no handy public toilet,

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keep a portable one at the ice fishing hut.

Summing it up, Environment Minister James Auld said: "What you leave on the ice this winter washes onto the beaches next summer. So leave nothing behind but your tracks."

It's a simple matter of consideration for others.

And it's not enough to get trash and sanitary waste out of sight by dumping it down the ice-hole or burying it in a snowdrift. The first method pollutes the water immediately and the second just puts off pollution until spring.

The only safe rule is-- When you leave the ice, take everything with you.

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FOR RELEASE: January 24, 1972.

Litterbug makes good...



Half the free world has heard of you.

It's a pity you didn't leave your name, so we'd know who you are.

And I'll bet at the time, you didn't even notice what you were doing.

Remember? You were enjoying the sun in Toronto's High Park, walking along Grenadier Pond with a cold soft drink can in your hand. You pulled the easy-off tab to take the first sip.

Then you flipped the tab into the pond -- there is a carpet of tabs on the bottom there.

Later, a duck dove for food on the bottom and hit the ring of your tab. It stuck on her beak. That's how you became the world's best known litterbug -- infamous.

Because people love birds and animals. They called her Ringo.



And people all over the world watched their newspapers and television sets as Humane Society and Lands and Forests men tried to capture Ringo and free her beak.

Eventually, after the attention of the world focused on you for days on end, the duck freed herself.

Ontario's Department of the Environment did its best to persuade you not to litter. So did our Ottawa counterparts.

Now everybody knows of your careless habits. It sure makes the rest of us look good.

It's a pity you didn't leave your name...

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FOR RELEASE: January 31, 1972.

A magic exhaust pipe?....



A host of alternatives to the gasoline-powered internal combustion engine with its inherent pollution-producing defects are being considered by cool-headed businessmen all over the world.

One, William Lear, multimillionaire inventor of the Lear jet and the first practical in-car stereo, believes steam power or gas turbines are the answer to the pollution-free car.

He's working on a steam-car now, although steam may not be the proper word any more, since water has been replaced by freon or other fluids.

Lear feels the steam car can operate cleanly and more efficiently. The only handicap at the moment is the lack of a condenser that will efficiently cool the fluid at high speed.

In the U.S., Japan and Europe, other designers are working on all-electric cars. But they are handicapped by heavy batteries, low power and short range.

Engineering students at University of Toronto built a propane-electric car not too long ago for a smog-free car race. Their vehicle accelerates to about 15 mph on electric motor and then the propane-fueled V-8 cuts in to drive the car and recharge the batteries.

Another alternative -- fuel cells, which use chemical reaction rather than combustion -- is being explored by a number of firms. Most of them now base the cell on a hydrazine-oxygen reaction, an explosive mixture that could be replaced by a safer solution.

With automobiles producing half the pollution in many North American cities, some answer to the problem is needed. Maybe one of these projects will provide it.

And maybe none of them will.

In a pessimistic moment earlier this year Walter Hickel, former U.S. secretary of the interior, remarked:

"We've subsidized the automobile to where it's an environmental hazard even if pure oxygen comes out of the exhaust pipe."

He may be right.

But most of us depend on our cars. And the best we can do, until something better comes along, is keep them in shape. The pollution controls required on new cars do a good job on a properly tuned vehicle.

It's not really magic; just a compromise. But it's the best we've got. For now.

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FOR RELEASE: February 7, 1972.

What it's all about.



A western Ontario college student wrote the Department of the Environment the other day raving about the wonderful pollution study and control system they have in Japan.

He wanted to know when Ontario was going to do something about pollution. He thought we should follow Japan's lead.

We thought you knew. That's what the Department of the Environment is all about. We run Ontario's pollution control system and it's probably the best in the world. At least that's what all the touring government people from the United States, Europe and Asia keep telling us.

Pollution, conservation, noise, waste....these are the things that worry us.

We're working on them.

We take our orders from George Kerr, the Minister of the Environment in Prime Minister William Davis's Government.

Our Air Management Branch tracks down funny smells in the air -- and some things you can't smell -- and gets rid of them if they are dangerous. They even do things about the harmless odors that just make breathing disagreeable.

As far as we know, air pollution hasn't killed or injured anyone in Ontario. And we are making sure that it never does.

It has happened in other places -- London, Tokyo and New York -- and we're not going to let it happen here. The Environmental Protection Act gives us the authority to see that it doesn't.

Our Waste Management Branch worries about garbage -- industrial waste, farm waste, radioactive waste, sewage sludge and the cans you put out for the garbage collector every week.

Did you know the average person in Ontario's cities and towns throws away half a ton of garbage a year?

If we don't do something, we'll be up to our ears in the stuff. That's what waste management is all about. The Branch controls how waste is carried away and disposed of. The Branch sets the standards, with Provincial legislation to back them up -- and the operators of disposal systems follow the rules or else...

The Conservation Authorities Branch gives advice, money and know-how to local groups interested in keeping green places with trees and clean, clear water for us and our children. We're helping 37 local groups who run Conservation Authorities in their watersheds and we are always ready to help a new authority get started.

The Ontario Water Resources Commission, also a part of the Department of the Environment, does the same thing for our rivers and lakes that the Air Management people do for our air. And they too have the legal muscle to keep things clean.

Two new services recently joined the department. One deals with pesticides and the other with private sewage disposal. We'll have more to say about them later.

That's what it's all about. Now you know.

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FOR RELEASE: February 14, 1972



Roses are red...

You could call Mrs. Pamela Samuels Ontario's Environmental pin-up girl.

She and her husband Joe are featured in one of the Department of the Environment's most popular pamphlets. It's called "Mr. and Mrs. Samuels are so concerned about pollution... they're doing something about it!"

The London, Ontario, housewife attended an anti-pollution conference in February, 1970, and became so concerned about what she heard she couldn't sleep.

So she prepared a pollution control guide she, her husband and two children have followed ever since.

It's a householder's guide, and most of the points she made were the ones all of us should think of and don't, like walking instead of driving short distances and pulling weeds instead of putting poison on your lawns.

Or using returnable bottles, and plastic plates instead of throw-away paper ones on picnics -- just the things that keep air, land and water a little cleaner and life a little more pleasant.

She's an intelligent, attractive woman with a streak of bubbling good humor that underlies her quiet, serious approach to pollution problems.

She is a member of Pollution Probe in London, but her real effectiveness is as an interested and concerned housewife. People listen to her when they might shy away from anybody with a title who could be called a professional pollution crusader.

In November, she was one of three panelists in a series of three experimental workshops sponsored by the Department of the Environment in Kingston, London and North Bay.

She's good at that sort of thing, and she's always a popular speaker.

She keeps informed on pollution problems and people believe her.

Because she cares.



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FOR RELEASE: February 21, 1972



Daisies do tell...

Sometimes plant life provides the evidence in uncovering air pollution.

But it takes an experienced detective squad to follow the clues.

A complaint came in to the Department of the Environment's Air Management Branch that trees, shrubs and hedges in an Ontario community showed leaf damage -- always on their southwest sides.

There were two suspects, an aluminum chloride manufacturer about a mile to the west and a nickel refinery about a mile southwest. But there was little sign of injury to any leaves between the damage area and either of the two industries.

The Department's Phytotoxicology Section -- the plant squad -- was sent out to get the mute testimony of soil and vegetation analysis. Sulphur and fluoride contents were normal, chloride, aluminum and copper levels were up slightly, but nickel showed up in soil and plants in poisonous quantities.

The nickel refinery was the only industry with this emission, the direction -- southwest -- was consistent, and the evidence was complete.

In another case, the plant squad checked a damaged property surrounded by seven industries, and with wind data, chemical analysis and knowledge of plant symptoms traced the damage to sulphur dioxide from a sulphite pulp and paper mill.

There are times, quite often, when the evidence clears an industry unjustly accused.

In Scarborough, a stand of Lombardy poplars was dying and suspicious eyes were being cast on a neighboring manufacturer of liquefied gases.

But the investigation showed almost immediately that the trees were not poisoned, but died a natural death -- from the disease Dothichiza canker.

Where a specific polluter can be blamed, the complaint and the evidence provide grounds for action by the Air Management Branch.

When neglect of disease caused the damage, the complainant is given advice or referred to an agency that can help.

And the Phytotoxicology Section moves on to other clues, other cases.

Elementary...?

No, phytotoxicology, my dear Watson.

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FOR RELEASE: February 28, 1972.

Let Henry do it...

School bus driver Henry Larouche doesn't believe in getting emotional about litterbugs and their trail of garbage.

"A lot of people are getting emotional," he says, "not too many are doing anything."

But he's doing something with a group of Brampton children -- their parents and neighbors refer to them fondly as Brampton's Little Litter Patrol.

"We decided to do something and we hope that other people will get the habit," Henry says. "We are just plain citizens doing our bit."

Five youngsters form the faithful nucleus of the litter patrol -- there are others who work regularly. But wherever they go, other children watch the fun, then dig in and lend a hand.

At Brampton's annual flower festival, he had free midway ride tickets for his young helpers in recognition of their efforts to keep the grounds clean.

When other children saw the free tickets, they set to work too.

"Pretty soon there were 50 kids running around cleaning up and there wasn't enough litter to go around," Henry recalls.



"It's not unusual for the children to get rewards for their work, but already some of them are turning down the rewards," he says.

One of their big cleanup jobs is the patrolling a section of Claireville Conservation Area, a heavily used centre operated by the Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority.

The patrol cleans up a section each Monday morning before the conservation area opens to the public at 10 a.m.

They have found the answer to the rising tide of paper, bottles, cans and trash cast aside to deface our parks, cities and countryside -- Just bend over and pick it up.

The trouble is, too many of us are too lazy and too ready to let Henry do it.

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FOR RELEASE: March 6, 1972.

Stop talking about it...

Alan Stacey's Geography students were tired of talking about the environment.

They told the Ancaster High and Vocational School teacher last year they wanted to do something and conservation was their bag.

When the teacher suggested fund-raising, they thought immediately of the Dundas Valley -- 2,000 acres of hills, forests, ravines, streams and waterfalls nestled along the Niagara Escarpment.

The valley was in the news. The then Department of Highways had shelved plans for a four-lane valley parkway in the face of public opposition. A report on the Niagara Escarpment gave the valley top priority for future Government action and it was marked as greenbelt in the just-released Toronto Region concept.

Even more important, John Robarts, then Prime Minister of Ontario, had announced 75 per cent grants for the purchase of Niagara Escarpment conservation land. So every dollar they could raise would be matched with three from the Province.

The Ancaster youngsters cut Parkside High School teacher Don Buntaine and some of his Dundas Students in on the action and about 80 students hit the streets, knocking on doors.

Joined by naturalists and anti-pollution groups, they left conservation brochures and a flyer that asked:

"Is there any reason why this land should not be saved for all people, and for all time?"

Apparently not, because when they finished collecting dollar donations and leaving certificates for donors, they had \$6,600 -- enough with the Government grant for the Hamilton Region Conservation Authority to acquire 30 acres of the Dundas Valley.

This year, they are trying to widen the campaign by bringing in all the high schools in Hamilton and Wentworth County -- It's a big valley and there's still a lot of land to save.

And the students in Ancaster want to get involved in more than fund raising. They are preparing a brief on open space for Ancaster to consider in its official plan.

One student's father suggested something they are eager to tackle -- laying out a nature trail for the blind with student volunteer labor. When this year's fund raising is over, they plan to talk it over with the Canadian National Institute for the Blind.

It should be interesting, because they don't like talking about things.

They like to do them.

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FOR RELEASE: March 13, 1972

Don't look back, but...

There's something behind you.



Every time you start up your, car carbon monoxide and hydrocarbons pour out at the rate of a pound for every gallon of gasoline you burn.

If it's an older car, without the gadgets and adjustments that cut crankcase and exhaust emissions, you are probably dumping two pounds of pollution into the air over every 20 miles or so of road.

And if the car is worn out or badly out of tune, it could be pushing out carbon monoxide and hydrocarbons at the rate of a pound for every four miles.

That costs money.

Carbon monoxide and hydrocarbons are what you get when fuel is not burned completely. So what are you doing pouring them out your exhaust pipe when they could be pushing the car?

And, of course, enough carbon monoxide in an enclosed space can kill you.

Even in the open in a traffic jam -- if a traffic jam can be called open -- some doctors say there can be a physical effect from carbon monoxide, especially if you are a cigarette smoker with a certain amount of the stuff already in your bloodstream.

The hydrocarbons can be unpleasant, too.

According to the Provincial Department of the Environment's medical consultant Dr. Maxwell Fitch, they combine in sunlight with oxides of nitrogen to produce Los Angeles' smog -- that's a real grab bag of chemicals to make the eyes water and the nose run.

The doctor adds that there is some medical opinion that some hydrocarbons contribute to cancer and some that bring on asthma attacks.

That's why Ontario believes that clean-running cars are essential to clean air. And we're going to have them. By 1975, auto pollution will be reduced to 1964 levels, the Department of the Environment predicts.

And as new controls are designed and old cars are taken off the road it will continue to improve.

But until then...keep you car in shape.

We'll all breathe easier if you do.



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FOR RELEASE: March 20, 1972.

Good clean country air...

People keep talking about dirty air and water pollution in the cities -- something you escape by moving to a small town or the country.

Don't you believe it!

You know what really bothers people about air pollution? It's the smell. They complain more about odor than they do about dirt.

And there is something especially ripe about a badly run piggery or poultry farm.

Just stand downwind from one.

The Ontario Water Resources Commission say that 600 cows, 5,200 hogs or 70,000 broilers produce a solid waste disposal problem that equals a town of 10,000 people.

Solid waste disposal problem...That's manure.

It was easy to spread it around and make use of it when farmers produced crops as well as animals. But this is the age of specialization and intensive animal farming.



So manure is piling up and getting rid of it is a headache. You even have to be careful spreading it, because too much can create a water pollution problem. An overdose means nutrients wash into the rivers and lakes.

It is too good a fertilizer to waste. It has to be used to produce crops. But there's no easy answer to the problems of handling it. We're still looking for one.

But there are a lot of things a farmer can do to avoid offending his neighbors.

Ontario's Department of the Environment and Department of Agriculture and Food put together a suggested code of practice for animal farming.

If you'd like one, write:

Information Services  
Department of the Environment  
880 Bay Street  
Toronto 181, Ontario

It comes in a plain brown wrapper.

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FOR RELEASE: March 27, 1972.

The beautiful people...

Sometimes I get discouraged.

There's a picture in our office of an outhouse. Do you realize there is a man in Ontario who is idiot enough to build an outhouse on the end of his dock?

I wonder if he swims there. I'm sure the people in the cottages around him don't.

And I just read a statement by a British Columbia mining executive. He said open pit mines are beautiful -- they "offer relief to the constant green of the landscape, have interesting rock formations exposed to view and form a potential tourist attraction."

What really bothers me is that he could be right.

I love northern Ontario and the "constant green of the landscape" -- especially around Lake Superior. But I'm beginning to think that a lot of the tourists I share my summers with just aren't comfortable with unspoiled natural beauty.



There's a spot north of Marathon -- a view of Lake Superior with rock outcrops and islands that takes your breath away. A.Y. Jackson sketched it in his travels through Superior country.

I saw it first in 1969. Last summer I went out of my way on a holiday trip to stop and take a picture -- something to bring it all back when winter in the city gets too depressing.

The first time I projected those color slides, something caught my eye -- a flash from the bottom left hand corner of the screen.

It was the sun, reflecting off the end of a soft drink can. There was a little pile of cans and broken bottles, caught by a ridge as they rolled down the sloping rock of the outlook.

That little heap of garbage is in every slide I took there. And it's getting to the point where I can't see anything else in that scene but that damned garbage.

It's getting hard to remember how beautiful that place is.

Now I'm noticing things in my other vacation pictures. The setting sun gives a halo to backlit birches at my favourite campside near Sioux Lookout. But in my pictures it also etches in the outline of every cigarette butt and dances off all the little aluminum pop can pull-tabs.

And that was one of the cleanest camps.

Yes, sometimes I get discouraged.

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FOR RELEASE: April 3, 1972

Putting it all together...



You can't put pollution in little compartments. It's all tied together.

Industrial waste, dumped carelessly on the land can contaminate the soil, wash into and pollute the waters and give off odors or gas to contaminate the air.

Over the past few years, Provincial officials involved in air, waste and water management have found themselves working together more and more. So many problems involve more than a narrow approach.

The time has come to recognize this and unite all these activities. That's why, as of April 1, there is no more Ontario Water Resources Commission and no more Department of the Environment.

It's all put together in the Ministry of the Environment-- one organization charged with establishing and maintaining a high standard of environmental quality.

Environment Minister James Auld in a newsletter told the 1,700 employees of the new ministry they had "a legacy of momentum" from previous agencies and warned them not to waste it.

"Interest in the problems of pollution is at an all-time high," he said. "Scare tactics won't solve the problems and might lose public confidence. Determination and work are required."

The Ministry will deal with the necessities of life-- breathable air, drinkable water and uncontaminated soil.

The air pollution control system hasn't changed. It still tracks down contamination in the air, measures it and takes action to protect man's property and his right to breathe freely in safety and in comfort.

Waste management is still concerned with garbage-- the household and farm wastes, industrial and sewage wastes and litter-- controlling the disposal of refuse and studying and encouraging new uses for waste.

A pesticides control service guards against the abuse of weed, fungus and pest killers, limiting their effects to their targets.

And the Ministry is shouldering the work carried by the OWRC since 1956-- guaranteeing a full supply of clean water in Ontario and guarding against the unpleasant and destructive effects of water pollution.

There are laws and regulations to back up the performance of these responsibilities and, as the combined operation gets into gear, more legal muscle will be provided.

With the growing complexity of our society, the potential effect of man's activities increases.

It's inevitable that Ontario's environmental protection programs will have to deal with more and more complex situations.

But this change in the nature of life also means that the public cannot afford to lose interest.

Concern about pollution cannot be a passing fad.

It has to become a part of everyone's way of life.

A reader information service courtesy of the  
Ontario Ministry of the Environment.

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FOR RELEASE: April 10, 1972

A leash for red dog...

No, red dog is not an Irish setter.

It's the stuff in the air around some feed and grain mills that makes life miserable for the neighbors. And one feed mill operator found a quick way to become a better neighbor.

He took some burlap -- there's always lots of that on hand in a mill -- and nailed it on wood frames to cover the buildings ventilators. The way it worked out, his impromptu air filters even have a self-cleaning action.

A light breeze shakes the fabric and the red dog sifts down to the floor under the vents.

My point is that it's not always expensive to control air pollution.

Some people even find it profitable.

Photographic laboratories have been processing their used chemicals for years, recovering silver from their dark-room solutions instead of letting this precious metal flow into our waters as silver salts.

One small plant I know spent \$600 on recovery equipment for silver and paid for it in six months. They made \$500 profit on recovered metal in the next six months.



We should all stop and think before unloading our waste on the world. If we can't use it, maybe somebody else can.

In the photographic industry, there are firms which buy old sheet film in quantity, recover the silver from it and use the acetate film base for such things as wallet windows.

Almost everything is re-used and the amount of waste to dump into the environment is cut to an absolute minimum.

What do you do with the wood when you cut down dead elm trees?

A lot of people just burn it. But sawmills, veneer plants and at least one pulp and paper firm buy elm. That's a profit that could otherwise go up in smoke.

And smoke could be hazardous to your health, especially if you have heart or lung problems.

In a number of places, industries have put pollution controls into operation and found byproducts in material or energy that offset or completely cover the cost of the controls.

I know of people who suffer every Fall because their neighbors insist on burning their leaves, damp or dry, without considering who has to breathe the smoke.

Then those same neighbors turn around and buy fertilizer, soil conditioners and compost for their gardens and lawns.

Composting isn't that much trouble. Just pile the leaves, turn them now and then and in a few weeks they are ready for use.

It's not exactly a private silver mine.

But it stops an annoying local air pollution problem and it saves buying compost and soil conditioners.

Nobody has money to burn.

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FOR RELEASE: April 17, 1972

Heard any silence lately?...

A few years ago, a bleary-eyed homeowner was in Provincial court complaining about the racket his neighbor's air conditioner made all summer.

While his neighbor slept in cool comfort, he tossed and turned all night because of the sound the outside compressor made.

Finally, the only solution he could think of was to sue the neighbor and parade a line of expert witnesses in a courtroom.

Almost before the case got under way, the judge cut to the quick of the air conditioner case.

"Does anybody make a muffler or silencing hood for that thing?" he asked, indicating the machine.

The experts agreed: "Yes".

"Then buy one," he ordered. "Case dismissed."

It was a simple, logical solution, but it's hard to be logical and unemotional where noise is involved. Noise is the pollution that can have an effect on the emotional stability as well as on the body.

It has been around a long time. Julius Caesar was said to have complained about the clatter of chariot wheels on the cobblestones of Rome and banned them from the streets after sunset.

Now psychiatric studies are under way exploring the effects of noise and some interesting results are showing up.

One New York psychiatrist reports there is a recurring fantasy among some men who live near major airports. It involves breaking into the nearest armories and stealing an anti-aircraft gun. And the next low-flying jet...boom!

This particular student of human response to noise became interested in the subject when he discovered his new house was on the flight path to John F. Kennedy airport.

Jets, cars, trucks, motorcycles, snowmobiles, vacuum cleaners, transistor radios, stereos, jack hammers and rivetting guns-- all these things and more are assaulting our ears.

The pain threshold-- the point where sound actually hurts-- is easy to establish. It is in the neighborhood of 140 decibels. That's somewhere between the interior noise level of a diesel truck cab and the sound of a small jet engine 100 feet away.

And the majority of medical opinion is that a steady noise level above 80 decibels for a long period of time can cause some hearing loss.

But experts are still studying the levels at which noise contributes to emotional stress.

The Department of the Environment is working on noise regulations, for Ontario.

Environment Minister James Auld said he is considering a new approach to the development of these controls, setting up a single community as a pilot project in noise regulation. This would provide a field test for the workability of restrictions and the results could then be applied for the whole Province.

A reader information service courtesy of the Ontario Ministry of the Environment.

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FOR RELEASE: April 24, 1972

The burning question...

In Ottawa, the Bank of Canada burns about 25 tons of dirty, used paper money every month.

The Federal Reserve Bank in Dallas, Texas, is trying to cut down on waste and air pollution by recycling its paper money into building materials.

But Canada's money makers, while they are interested, are not yet ready for recycling. Security is the main consideration, they say, and nothing is as safe as burning.

Similarly, the RCMP insist on incineration for the classified secret papers they have to destroy. I don't know what their Canada-wide load is, but their Toronto offices burn about 80 pounds of paper a day.

You can't really argue about incineration when it involves the preservation of Canada's economy or National security.

But generally speaking, incineration is not the ideal answer to our cities' garbage disposal problem. It's expensive and incinerators need careful design and efficient controls to minimize our pollution.

On the other hand, burying waste, while it is generally cheaper, presents problems of its own. It has to be away from homes. Nobody wants a dump or a landfill scheme for a neighbor.

And in the immediate neighborhood of a growing city there aren't that many low-cost landfill sites that will not contaminate ground water or streams.

So recycling-- finding some use for the half ton of garbage each of us throws away every year-- seems like the only real solution.

You could say that Kitchener set up a recycling project when it decided to build a 110-foot ski hill from the city's waste. That's re-using garbage.

But Kitchener can't use household garbage or waste that decays in the hill, because decay generates heat and there would be little point in a ski hill that melts all the snow that lands on it.

The trouble is that garbage is so many things-- kitchen wastes, wood, paper, glass, cans,-- that it has to be sorted to be recycled.

Most recycling projects now under way involve volunteer labor and rely on the householder to sort his own waste. They have met with varying degrees of success.

Mechanical grinders and sorters, while they are steadily improving, are still not to the stage where they are completely reliable.

But a lot of development work is being done and there's a bright future for recycling if this and a few other stumbling blocks are overcome.

Paper can be used to make new paper, card, pressed board and other products.

Glass can be re-used or turned into paving material or building blocks.

Metals can be re-used, and to some extent are recycled.

And the organic waste that remains has countless potential uses. It has been used as compost and experimental uses include the production of natural gas, crude oil, and animal fodder.

The Department of the Environment's Waste Management Branch is keeping abreast of these developments with an eye to the future of garbage disposal.

Right now, waste is a problem and the aim is to minimize its harmful effects on the environment.

But more and more it is becoming a natural resource to be used to benefit all of us.

It's only a matter of time.



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FOR RELEASE: May 1, 1972

Where there's smoke...

A man leans on his rake, his thoughts a thousand miles away  
as he gazes absently into the flickering of a pile of burning leaves.

Grey pillows of smoke drift gently across the lawn as he  
stands there, wrapped in thought.



Thoughts of gardening... the trees turning green...  
grass growing... the cleanup bonfire... all part of that lazy-day Spring  
feeling.

Next door a little boy is playing. He's running and breathing  
hard-- too hard. His face flushes, his eyes start to run. By the time  
he can get inside his house, he's gasping and wheezing.

He won't need oxygen this time-- just asthma medication and  
rest in bed. Of course he doesn't dare go outside again until the air  
clears-- until all the bonfires are out.

Outside the smoke is still drifting. The man throws a fresh load  
on the fire. The smoke cloud fattens and rolls across the street.

A toddler looks up and beams at an approaching car. "Daddy's  
coming," she crows, as she runs out to meet the car.

The smoke rolls down towards the pavement.

The driver can't see. His tires scream on the pavement and the car halts short of the infant.

The sound jolts the dreamer back to the here and now and he starts to rake some more ground-damp leaves, twigs and paper for the fire.

"There's something special about a bonfire," he announces to nobody in particular. "And who does it harm?"

He's perfectly right. Nobody was hurt... permanently... this time.

If a bonfire brings dreams, memories, pleasure, he has the right to start one. That's his opinion and he's entitled to it.

But he's not entitled to endanger or cause discomfort to the people around him.

If you have to have bonfires, there are ways to set... and control them that protect your neighbors.

These are the rules laid down by the Ministry of the Environment:

Be sure you have the approval of your local fire department, police, or lands and forests office— whoever has jurisdiction.

Stay with the fire at all times.

Keep the fire at least 500 feet from a dwelling or don't burn more than a cubic yard of material at any time.

Don't set it where smoke can blow across a road or where it can cause discomfort or inconvenience to a neighbor.

Don't burn when weather conditions keep smoke from dispersing.

Burn dry materials and don't burn petroleum products, plastic, rubber or anything else that will cause excessive smoke or fumes.

Do it this way and your fire won't bother anyone.

Be considerate.

A reader information service courtesy of the Ontario Ministry of the Environment.

# Keeping it clean

with Bill Dodds



CA2 ON  
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FOR RELEASE: May 8, 1972

Doing their own thing...

Tell us, Don Beaulieu, what do you think of air pollution?

"It's a gas."

Oh... Well, why do you and your friend Gary O'Brien say all your classes at Stephen Leacock Collegiate are pollution classes?

"Because all they teach us is garbage."

Terrible, isn't it? But these two incorrigible punsters from Scarborough can go on like this for hours. They even want to do it in front of people, because, all jokes aside, they care about pollution.

A lot of young people do, and they're showing their concern in a lot of ways.

Some of them, as classroom projects, take water samples upstream and downstream of sewage plants for comparison. Others, in rural schools make compost heaps, turning garbage and leaves into soil conditioner.

In Sudbury, an ingenious group of Grade 4 children interviewed their teachers to find out how far each one drove to school. They calculated the amount of gas and oil consumed by each teacher and posted the results in a graph outside the principal's office.



Then there's the Weston Collegiate student who set up his own air monitoring station to measure local air pollution levels.

The kids really have an eye for pollution and waste. The young ones are especially interested in the things they handle or see and in things like litter that they can do something about.

At the Ministry of the Environment we have a parcel of letters from youngsters in a Scarborough public school.

One, writing about a trip to the supermarket, said:  
"They wrapped the meat, eggs and fruit in pieces of plastic, and then a piece of brown paper, then into a double bag. That is just a little example of excess packaging."

Another described his chocolate bar: "It comes with a small cardboard to sit on and wrapped in wax paper and has a fancy wrapper to attract the public's eye."

A Niagara-on-the-Lake boy wrote about a local creek: "The gook and the grime that is poured into that water is unbearable. It doesn't even look like water any more, but like a creek full of shaving cream. I am not going to give up because I want not only others but myself to grow up healthy with clean water."

He and a group of friends waded into a local stream and cleared out all the debris and accumulated garbage they could get their hands on. They found a silver dollar in the process and when they wrote, they

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offered to pay for any posters or pamphlets we could send them.

I told them to keep the money - We don't charge for information. They've earned it.

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A reader information service courtesy of the  
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Out  
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# Keeping it clean

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with Bill Dodds



FOR RELEASE: May 22, 1972

Waste not want not...

Officially, British Government officials dismiss Harold Bate as a tassel on the lunatic fringe.

But the Devonshire farmer has been acclaimed by the whole earth cult and a growing number of environment groups as a pioneer in ecology and recycling.

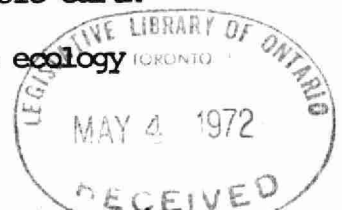
A former taxi-driver, he has turned to farming and uses manure to produce fuel for his car.

He says 15 pigs produce enough ordure to turn out 300 cubic feet of methane a week in his home-made extractor-- the equivalent of nine gallons of gasoline.

The converter on his car-- he designed it himself-- costs about \$16.

It not only solves his problem in disposing of animal waste, it contributes to clean air. Methane burns almost completely-- about 97 percent combustion. Gasoline is much less efficient, leaving hydrocarbons, carbon monoxide and lead to foul the air.

His estimate is that the methane equivalent to one gallon of gasoline costs him three cents.



But if we wait for all our animal farmers to invent new ways to dispose of animal waste, we'll be up to our ears in it. Fortunately, Mr. Bate is not the only one who's been thinking.

The Pittsburgh Energy Research Centre have worked out a process for converting manure to oil. The yield is three barrels of oil per ton of dry manure.

Dr. G. Alex Mills of the U.S. Federal Bureau of Mines estimated that agricultural wastes could produce 2.45 billion barrels of oil a year-- enough to meet half of U.S. oil needs.

There's nothing really new about using manure as fuel.

Indians and early settlers on the North American plains used buffalo chips for fuel-- cooking and heating fires.

And manure was used for fertilizer long before chemical alternatives were developed. It's still used and it is coming right back into style.

Organic is the new word in foods-- natural food grown with natural fertilizers and no chemicals. People are now willing to pay a premium for a guarantee that the vegetables they buy have never been sprayed with pesticides and the assurance that they are not grown with artificial fertilizers.

So we've reached a point where "Think Manure" is the latest watchword in farming.

And the word is spreading.



Out  
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# Keeping it clean

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with Bill Dodds



FOR RELEASE: May 15, 1972

Blazing a trail...

Dr. C.Y. Hauch of East Linton is an outdoorsman.

With his love of skiing, hiking and outdoor activity, it was inevitable that he should get involved in conservation, the Niagara Escarpment and the Bruce Trail.

And because he and thousands of other outdoorsmen got involved, the Escarpment, a 450-mile ridge from Queenston to Tobermory, will be saved for all of us.



Premier John Robarts, announcing Ontario's Niagara Escarpment Study in March, 1967, praised Dr. Hauch and the nine clubs that make up the Bruce Trail Association.

His comments in Hansard were: "The people in the Province owe him, as well as the other members of these clubs, a real debt. What has been done to date, has been done completely by volunteer labour from these clubs. Men and women who are interested in the establishment of the trail and in the walking and the scenery and so on that it produces, have done the work themselves."

Dr. Hauch, who has represented Sarawak since 1963, retired late last year from his seat on Sauble Valley Conservation Authority.

"I've been at it so many years," he said. "I wanted to see a younger man take over."

So now Dr. Homer Edwards is on the Authority and Dr. Hauch is looking forward to something he has never done -- walking the entire length of the Bruce Trail. He's only familiar with the north half of it.

Looking back, one of the things that pleased him the most, was the acquisition of Indian Falls Park. The park, a gravel pit being converted to the gateway to a side trail on the escarpment, is in Sarawak.

This was one of his pet projects in his fund-raising activities. He has a real talent for fund-raising. He brought in \$50,000 from contributors as far away as New York State, and contributed greatly to the Conservation Authority reaching its \$100,000 goal for Escarpment land purchase in three years.

They went looking for private donors to take full advantage of the 75 per cent Provincial grants for Niagara Escarpment land.

That grant was a good selling point, Dr. Hauch said. It means a lot when people know every dollar they give will be matched by three from the Province.

It also means a lot when people like Dr. Hauch are willing to put their talent, time and effort to work and improve our natural environment.

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# Keeping it clean

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with Bill Dodds



FOR RELEASE: May 28, 1972.

Dollars and sense...

In the next four years, something like \$105 billion will be spent on controlling air and water pollution and waste disposal.

Of course this U.S. Government figure includes more than pollution controls. It also includes changes to cleaner industrial processes and research on pollution control methods.

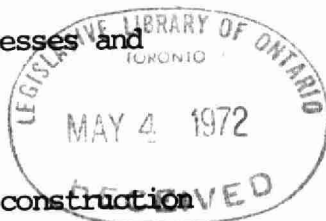
In 1960, two percent of gross spending on industrial construction went towards pollution control. Now the amount is up to four percent and by 1980 it is expected to rise to 15 percent.

In Canada, an estimated \$5 billion will be spent on pollution control between 1970 and 1980, with \$800 million already committed to air pollution control in Ontario, according to Environment Canada.

Our environmental housecleaning is an expensive proposition.

In Ontario alone, industry has spent or committed about \$120 million for pollution control in the past year to meet Ontario Ministry of the Environment standards.

Of this, \$40 million went to water pollution -- controls, installation, land costs and engineering expenses.



Industries have spent \$78 million in the past year on air pollution control alone. An extra \$3 million went to emission controls for residential, commercial and institutional sources.

The figures are impressive. And remember they just cover the cost to corporations and institutions of meeting the quality standards set by the Ministry of the Environment.

How do you set a price on establishing those standards-- the study, the research into health effects and the data from all over the world that went into setting standards at a safe level.

Even more important, how do you calculate the cost of pollution that isn't controlled?

There's a dollar loss involved in the death of a lake or the contamination of an ocean-- the economic loss to the fishermen who can't sell a mercury-contaminated catch, for example.

Think of the dollar loss involved when algae growth, spurred on by nitrogen and phosphates eats the last of the oxygen reserves in the water and fish can no longer survive.

There goes a fishing industry and a chunk of the tourist industry.

The cottage owners of Ontario are getting concerned with what is happening to their lakes and are working with the Ministry to find answers and to clean up their contributions to water pollution.

They realize how important clean healthy water is to the enjoyment of their summer property.

Now that people are concerned and willing to work together with industry and government, we're getting somewhere. It may be costly at times to clean up our environment and keep it clean.

But think of the losses if we go back to neglecting it.

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A reader information service courtesy of the Ontario Ministry of the Environment.

# Keeping it clean

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with Bill Dodds



FOR RELEASE: June 5, 1972

With a few strings attached...

"Where have all the rivers gone?  
Long time passing  
Where have all the good streams gone?  
Long time ago  
Where have all the fishes gone?  
Gone forever every one.  
When will they ever learn?  
When will they ever learn?



That little tune to the music of Where Have All the Flowers Gone is one of the numbers in a road show that will tour Ontario this summer.

It's a puppet show to entertain children in some of the places where they can be found.

Pulling the strings are six students from Humber College's Creative and Communication Arts division. Their troupe is sponsored by the Ministry of the Environment under a SWEEP grant— That stands for Students Working in an Environmental Enhancement Program.

Right now the show is booked as far west as Kitchener, as far North as Orillia and as far east as Peterborough. The scripts, the sets, the puppets and the voices are all done by the students.

The whole show is designed for portability. Ecologee— that's what they call it-- can be set up in schools and libraries as easily as in parks and playgrounds.

The cast of characters, Phineas Phish, Clarence Clam, Garbage Grabber and Blue Green Algae, are a bizarre crew; B.G. Algae, for example is a hairy blue-green monster.

Their plays and skits are funny with sight gags and good one-liners.

But there's a message with all the fun. The message to the children who watch the shows is that our environment must be protected and that they have a real stake in the future.

During the 10-week run, the touring players are hoping to perform for 150 to 200 audiences, with two or three shows on each circuit. They hit the road late this month and I can't give you their itinerary, because it's not settled yet.

But watch this newspaper. If they come to town, this is where you'll find out about it.

And I don't think anybody will complain if you bring your children and sit in to watch the show. Nobody's too old to enjoy a good puppet show.

Besides, maybe you'll learn something.

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# Keeping it clean

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with Bill Dodds



FOR RELEASE: June 12, 1972

The possible dream...

Not long ago, I met a Windsor gardener with a dream.

It goes back to his childhood on the Island of Jersey off the coast of France where, at the age of eight, he started making compost and hauling it in his father's pony cart.

For most of his 23 years in Canada, he has done his best to buck the trend to chemical soil conditioners and fertilizers and promote the use of organic compost. Garbage, sewage, wood chips, dead leaves-- they're all the raw materials for making things grow as far as he's concerned.

And in his opinion, these raw materials are being wasted. "Our wealth is flowing down a one-way street," he insisted. "Pretty soon we'll all be forced to look towards re-using what we are now wasting."

He has dropped gardening now and he's going into the compost business to earn his livelihood. He thinks that 12,000 tons a year is the break-even point in production.

A lot of other men have tried to make a living in North America from making and selling compost and most of them failed.

He thinks the time for success has come as more and more people are concerned about how their food is grown.



Right now, he's composting a combination of wood chips and sewage sludge. "It has every trace element you need in plant foods," he said.

It takes him 12 weeks to break down the compost for use, he said, and the Board of Health checks his operation regularly.

He said that anybody can make compost in their back yard-- just pile dead leaves, organic household garbage, and anything else biodegradable in a heap and turn it regularly for about three months.

For his own process, he uses a catalyst-- he won't say what it is, but that's fair enough. After all he is a businessman now.

That's why I haven't mentioned his name. I don't feel right about plugging a commercial operation, even if I like what it is doing.

All the same, I hope he makes a go of it.

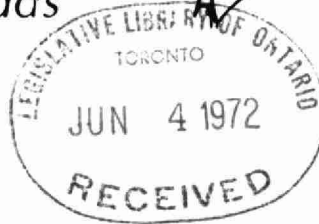
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# Keeping it clean

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with Bill Dodds



FOR RELEASE: June 19, 1972

Everyone has weeds...

What do you do when aquatic weed growth moves in on the swimming area at your cottage?— when weeds become a hazard to navigation and a threat to your lake?

The excessive growth of weeds and algae is a growing problem in Ontario's cottage areas and the Ministry of the Environment is picking up where the OWRC left off to seek a solution.

Environment Minister James Auld has some personal interest in the matter. You see, last summer, he was out with a rake on a 40-foot pole clearing weeds from the swimming area of his cottage. And then, there were the times he had to shut down his boat motor to clear a fouled propellor.

But weeds grow back. There is no quick answer. Usually, if weeds are destroyed chemically, their decay in the water just provides more nutrition for the next crop.

That's where the cycle starts-- too many nutrients from human and industrial waste can trigger weed growth and upset the balance of the lake's life cycle.

An Environment Ontario survey of 4,554 cottages in 1970-71 showed that 66 percent of the sewage disposal systems were satisfactory, 15 percent were

unsatisfactory and 19 percent were undesirable from the standpoint of design, construction or location.

An abatement program, to clean up the problems discovered, is being carried out by the Province and the local health unit.

This is part of the Ministry's work on water pollution control-- cutting down the flow of nutrients into the lakes. But cleaning up involves more than the proper treatment of human and industrial waste. It also involves finding ways to remove excess nutrients from lakes where the balance is already disrupted.

Delegates from Ontario's cottager associations, meeting earlier this year with Ministry of the Environment staff, were interested in a weed harvesting method that has been developed in the U.S. and in Canada.

Some associations are interested enough to investigate the possibility of using harvesters in their lakes-- machines that can take the excess plant life out of the system and possibly help restore the water to its original natural balance.

We can work together while there's still life in our lakes.

Because while there's life, there's hope.

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# Keeping it clean

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with Bill Dodds



FOR RELEASE: June 26, 1972

Pollution control plants...

Have you thanked a plant lately?

Maybe you should. Trees, shrubs, grass and other plants do a lot of unheralded work to make life comfortable for us.

Everybody learns in grade school how plants take the carbon dioxide we exhale and convert into the oxygen we need to stay alive.

But how many of us realize that plants are also air conditioners, sound barriers and air filters.

The air conditioning capacity varies depending on size and type of plant, of course. For example, according to one U.S. environmental protection agency, a full grown apple tree is the equivalent of eight room-size air conditioners. The cooling effect is the result of trees using water. One tree can evaporate 200 gallons of water a day, cooling the air considerably in the process.

In some parts of North America, it has been suggested that there should be a 100-foot wide belt of trees bordering superhighways. Once again depending on the type of tree, up to three-quarters of the highway noise can be dissipated.

The same belt of trees would take up to half the dust from the roadway out of the air.



Of course, plants are not an unmixed blessing. Some, like ragweed for instance, are polluters in their own right, sifting irritating pollen into the air.

And the purple rain episode in Sarnia this year was eventually traced to a tree after an investigation by Environment Ontario phytotoxicologists.

In that incident, a man complained that his house siding was covered with purple spots, blaming air pollution for the discoloration. As it turned out, a nearby tree had just blossomed and its pollen, carried onto the house by a brief shower, caused the spots.

Fortunately, the purple could be washed off with water.

Plants can be affected by pollution, themselves. But that can be turned to advantage. Environment Ontario's air quality branch uses vegetation plots as a means of detecting and in some cases measuring pollution.

The way it works, the phytotoxicologists-- who could be called plant detectives-- wait until the plot sickens.

*Out  
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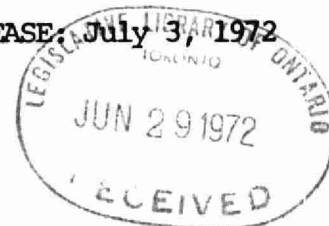
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# Keeping it clean

with Bill Dodds



FOR RELEASE: July 3, 1972



Say ah, world....

So you haven't been feeling up to par lately.

Well, stretch out on the examining table and let's have a look at you.

How long have you had that cough? You should really give up smoking. It's bad for you.

You know your lungs are already congested. Your atmosphere shows higher levels of nitrogen oxides, sulphur dioxide, carbon monoxide, lead and a number of other gases.

That's not good for you.

--You can't help it? --- It's your tenants? --- well, you really should do something about that.

Maybe an earthquake or two would remind them.... oh, you've tried that and it doesn't work.

They like earthquakes? Oh. I see. They don't like them.

They just like setting off nuclear bombs along fault lines to see what will happen.

I see open sores in your skin.

The rivers and oceans-- your life blood-- are accumulating poisons faster than your body can cleanse them.

You're suffering from iron deficiency-- more and more essential trace elements are being burned away and not replaced.

Your whole system is out of balance.

I'm sorry world, but you have a cancer and it's turning malignant.

I hate to say this, but unless the disease is treated, your case is terminal.

Too bad world. You were a game old girl.

Of course all this medical centre dialogue is imaginary. But in many ways, the earth is suffering from man's activities.

There are pollution control organizations around the world and concerned groups of people-- even concerned groups of industries-- who want to stop the abuse of our resources before it's too late.

But they have a big job ahead of them.

Mind you, I think we can still make it-- if we work together to live in harmony with our earth.

Don't say it's a daydream.

Because the alternative is a nightmare.

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Environment*

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# Keeping it clean

with Bill Dodds



FOR RELEASE: July 17, 1972

Dipping again....

Last week, I mentioned that only three of the 32 pulp and paper plants discharging waste directly into watercourses in Ontario meet the effluent standards laid down by the Ministry of the Environment.

According to Environment Minister James Auld, this industry is a major contributor to waste loadings on our waters. In terms of total loadings from all industries, the pulp and paper companies discharge 88 percent of five-day biochemical oxygen demand (BOD5) and 69 percent of suspended solids.

BOD5 is the significant measurement of organic material that can decompose, using the oxygen fish need to survive.

Mr. Auld gave delegates at a recent Industrial Waste Conference figures that loosely related the total industrial BOD5 contribution to municipal sanitary sewage. He said the industrial contribution equalled the five-day biochemical oxygen demand of sanitary sewage from 12 million people.

And Ontario's total population is 7 million, he concluded. The figures may not be rigidly correct, he said, but they are interesting.

Mr. Auld said the steel industry is responsible for 73 percent of metal losses to watercourses-- mostly iron and 79 percent of oily discharges.



*Out  
Environment*

# Keeping it clean

*with Bill Dodds*

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FOR RELEASE: July 10, 1972

A dip into water pollution...

Environment Minister James Auld, speaking at the 19th annual Industrial Waste Conference in Toronto recently, dipped into a forthcoming Environment Ontario report and produced some remarkable figures on existing water pollution.

"I find the many problems and changes that we face in the Ministry alarming and somewhat frightening," he said. But he added that the track record of the Ontario Water Resources Commission since its formation in 1957-- the commission is now part of his Ministry-- restored his confidence.

The costs of controlling water pollution are high. Industry has spent \$214 million on abatement since the OWRC was formed, Mr. Auld said. That's about \$14 million a year during the past 15 years. But that average doesn't give a true picture of the accelerating intensity of pollution control. The two-year total of approved costs for treatment facilities in 1970 and 1971 was \$68 million and the estimated spending for 1972 is \$50 million.

However, Mr. Auld told the conference that in terms of present-day costs of equipment, construction and other expenses, more than \$300 million would have to be spent just to abate existing water pollution from industry.

Half of this would be needed in the lower Great Lakes basin, he said.

The prevailing state of the economy in Ontario and in fact across Canada is having a serious effect on slowing down the rate at which industrial pollution abatement is going on, the Environment Minister said.

The companies under pressure to install pollution controls sometimes come back with the reply that the economy could force them to close plants, creating unemployment with disastrous effects on one-industry towns. This is used as an argument for not implementing or only partly completing pollution control systems.

Mr. Auld said Ontario's Resources Policy Field Committee is now reviewing the matter of economic incentives for industry. "It would appear that, unless the economic climate changes, further progress in certain important industrial classifications such as the pulp and paper industry could be seriously impeded," he said.

He added that financial incentives from Federal or Provincial authorities might help maintain the impetus in pollution control.

Mr. Auld had some significant figures on the pulp and paper industry-- "Only three plants of a total of 32 which discharge wastes directly to water-courses meet Ministry effluent requirements."

There's more-- more problems and some areas where solutions may be found. We'll go into that next week.

A Reader information service courtesy of the Ontario  
Ministry of the Environment.

# Keeping it clean

CA2 ON  
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with Bill Dodds



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K22



FOR RELEASE: July 24, 1972

Here and there....

I was starting a roundup of pollution funnies when my wife phoned.

She was mad.

She had just opened a delivery from a large mail-order department store, and she was almost buried in brown paper.

There were eight items in the order, all in one large brown bag with a bill and a label attached. But inside the bag, each item, two boy's trousers, three pairs of socks and three sets of briefs, were individually tucked into eight smaller brown paper bags, each with a label and a card stapled to it.

But that's not all. Each pair of shorts was inside a plastic bag inside the brown paper bag.

That's a bag within a bag within a bag,— 12 bags to add to our garbage.

When she phoned the store to complain, they said to write a letter. She's doing that now.

They also said they have to do things that way. Well they don't. This sort of excess packaging is one of the reasons we have a half ton of garbage per person per year to worry about.

Maybe we all should complain, every time we're loaded down with a pile of junk paper. I know I get tired of carrying it out for the garbageman every week.

Now that that's off my chest, let's see what there is on the bright side of the pollution news.

At the U.N. Conference on the Environment in Stockholm, Britain's environment minister Peter Walker was asked about "the flood of pornography polluting the sexual environment."

He told the press: "The British Government is against pornography and for sex."

I'm glad we got that position established.

Now an item from Fink, Texas, about to celebrate its eighth observance of National Fink Day. The eight residents of Fink-- the population has varied over the years from three to a peak of 15-- are considering annexing the adjacent community of West Fink.

They were recently assured of assistance with their sole pollution problem from the boy scouts and veterans' auxiliary of the nearby towns of Pottsborough, Denison and Sherman.

The scout and veteran recycling drives are ideal for clearing up Fink's pollution problem-- an excess of empty beer cans. Community officials indicated the problem is aggravated every year by the National Fink Day celebrations.

*Out  
Environment*

# Keeping it clean

*with Bill Dodds*



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FOR RELEASE: July 31, 1972

Too young to die....

"Please do something, we're too young to die."



That's the closing line of a letter from two young Ontario schoolgirls afraid of pollution.

They had been talking about it in class and somebody mentioned hearing that in 25 years everyone will have to have regular needles to counteract pollution.

Pollution is a threat to our environment, make no mistake about that.

But for God's sake and for the sake of impressionable and trusting little children, don't make a bogeyman out of air and water pollution.

It's easy to resort to scare tactics. They are nice and dramatic. They have an impact on people-- for a while.

But in the long run, they turn people off. People who are scared too often just don't listen anymore-- not even to the sensible words they should hear.

Scare tactics even turn me off and it's my job to be interested in pollution control.

There's a commercial short film out on the market. It's beautifully done and it has a dynamite charge of impact. It pictures a ravaged world, overcrowded with poisonous air and water. One man sets up a little environment in a

greenhouse, but the people and rats and the rest of the dying world break in and ravage the last little ark of nature.

As I said, it is beautifully done. But it is scare propaganda and, in my opinion, it does more harm than good.

There's a line from Coleridge's Ancient Mariner I'm fond of. It's about a man who looks uneasily over his shoulder and it goes like this.

"And having looked, walks on  
And turns no more his head,  
Because he knows some nameless fiend  
Doth close behind him tread."

Well pollution is not a nameless fiend. It's something that can be measured. It can be neutralized. It can be cut off at the source.

And there are people all over the world working against pollution-- working so that all the horror stories about pollution will eventually sound the same as the story of Little Red Riding Hood and the Big Bad Wolf.

Remember, people used to be afraid of the Wolf once.

Come to think of it, you might also remember what happened to the boy who cried "Wolf" once too often.

It got him.

A Reader information service courtesy of the Ontario Ministry of the Environment.

Out  
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# Keeping it clean

with Bill Dodds



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FOR RELEASE: August 7, 1972

Every litter bit...

Do you get the feeling somebody's trying to tell you something?

Have you noticed the white signs on the bright green litter receptacles? They read, 'Use this amazing new pollution control device. (Keep Ontario beautiful)'

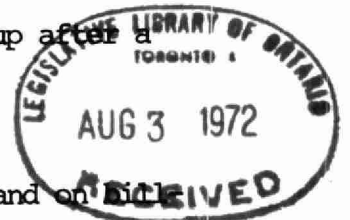
How about the other anti-litter signs on trash bins supplied by the can people—or the buttons and T-shirts and stickers that are part of their anti-litter campaign? Their phrase is Make the scene clean.

Then there's the television commercials—the Ontario commercial that starts with a dinosaur and runs through a cartoon history of man and litter—the Federal Government one with the kid on his tricycle cleaning up after a litterbug.

The anti-litter message is on radio, in your newspaper and on billboards. It's printed on cigarette packages, candy wrappers and package labels. It's pressed into glass bottles and stamped into the metal of soft drink cans.

And the whole campaign is aimed at getting the message into one place where it's never been before—stamping it indelibly into the brain of every litterbug in Ontario.

When I think of the mess some of them can create, I'm sometimes tempted to suggest we stamp the message into their heads with a sledgehammer.



But seriously, the only thing we haven't tried in our attempts to get through to these people, is stuffing the message into bottles and throwing them overboard. The trouble with that is, that they throw so many bottles away themselves, ours would never be noticed.

Still, somebody has been listening.

I saw a car stopped at a traffic light the other day. It had U.S. plates and an empty cigarette package came sailing out the driver's window.

Two couples on the curb--youthful fashion plates in ratty denim and frizzy hair--stopped their conversation and turned. One boy walked into the street, picked up the package and passed it in the car window.

"Your dropped something," he said as the driver dumbly accepted the crumpled pack. Then, as the light turned green, he stepped back to rejoin his friends.

If we get a few more people like that around, we might just get somewhere at keeping it clean.

A Reader information service courtesy of the Ontario Ministry of the Environment.



*Our  
Environment*

# Keeping it clean

CA2 ON  
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K22

with Bill Dodds



FOR RELEASE: August 14, 1972

Your oil bill...



Last month, a freighter in the Great Lakes flushed out its tanks.

As far as we can determine, it was a deliberate act of convenience for the ship's captain and owners.

You paid for it--a \$10,000 beach cleanup with nobody to foot the bill but the Ontario taxpayer.

The thick, tarry oil that powers much of our maritime traffic floated on Lake Huron for some time before a storm drove it ashore onto private beaches and Ipperwash Provincial Park.

Fortunately, the spill was limited and didn't hit an area where wildlife would be affected. And it was dealt with efficiently by the Ministry of the Environment's contingency plan-- a framework for reporting and co-ordinating control of oil and chemical spills.

But, because there is no way of knowing how long the oil floated unseen before hitting the beach, the culprits in the spill escaped and, as I said before, you paid for it.

Spills can range from a minor nuisance to a major ecological disaster. Ontario, Canada, the U.S. and other nations with coastlines to protect are continually refining their methods of detection and cleanup.

We should eventually be able to pinpoint the blame for almost every significant spill and make the culprit or his company pay the bill. We don't

want ships that make messes on our lakes any more than we want dogs that make messes on our carpets.

Contingency planning, on the local, provincial, federal and international levels, is the big gun in dealing with spills. Basically it means that responsible people are prepared to swing into effective action at a moment's notice.

The procedures and the techniques are continually being refined.

And new techniques keep coming along--some of them so ingenious as to be almost unbelievable.

One of the more bizarre experiments involve bacteria. There are more than 60 types of bacteria that eat oil, breaking it down to harmless compounds. Researchers hope to be able to freeze-dry a stockpile of bacteria, each catalogued according to its diet to be dumped quickly on oil spills where they can multiply like mad.

They won't be able to do the whole job, but if they can help, we'll use them.

A reader information service courtesy of the Ontario Ministry of the Environment.

Out  
Environment



# Keeping it clean

with Bill Dodds



CA2 ON  
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FOR RELEASE: August 21, 1972

At what cost...

In the past six years, an estimated 800 people in Japan have been affected by Yokkaichi asthma, a serious bronchial ailment resulting from emissions from industries in a petro-chemical complex in central Japan.

In an unprecedented district court decision, six major Japanese firms have been ordered to pay nearly \$300,000 in damages to victims of this ailment and the families of several Yokkaichi residents who died.

The case took nearly five years to decide and the ruling prompted the national environmental agency to pledge greater effort to prevent pollution before it starts.

In another Japanese court case, a leading chemical company was ordered to pay \$10,000 to 77 people suffering as a result of mercury discharges to a river.

In Tokyo, officials are seriously considering banning automobiles during peak pollution periods. The City governor, Ryokichi Minobe asked to ban private autos during the 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. commuter traffic peak, forcing drivers to use public transit. But police rejected the scheme because it was impossible to man barricades on the thousands of approach roads to the city.

Since autos cause an estimated 99.7 percent of Tokyo's carbon monoxide and 97.9 percent of hydrocarbon emissions, city officials are still looking for solutions.

The latest estimates indicate that Japanese government spending on pollution control will double to \$552 million in the next fiscal year and industrial spending on pollution abatement will rise to \$7.2 billion.

Japan is paying a heavy price for its rush to become a major industrial power. But the Japanese are putting their experience to good use developing a major pollution control program.

In a way, we're lucky.

We're living in a big province in a big country, with a tremendous amount of water supply and air space, while Japan is a small, heavily populated nation.

We could see the danger of environmental abuse before it was upon us.

It won't happen here, because we're paying the price in dollars before we have to pay it in lives and health.

Pollution control is becoming part of our lives -- where we work, where we sleep and where we play.

It has to.

The alternative is too high a price to pay.

A reader information service courtesy of the Ontario Ministry of the Environment.

# Keeping it clean

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with Bill Dodds



FOR RELEASE: August 28, 1972

In recycling circles...

The Steel Company of Canada is into the pop-rock music business indirectly as a result of its pollution control program.

Stelco's emission controls picked out sulphuric acid, which was difficult to dispose of safely and not profitably saleable.

Researchers, working on the problem, found they could turn it into hydrochloric acid which can be re-used.

And there was a bonus -- the process produced iron oxide which was almost absolutely pure. This is used to provide the soundtrack on recording tape.

I wonder if it's used strictly for acid rock music.

In Boston, an organic chemist came up with a process that uses worms to turn garbage into high-quality compost.

Estimating that a community of 75,000 people would produce 100 tons of garbage a day, he decided that 100 tons of worms could deal with that handily. A worm, according to his studies, eats its weight in garbage daily and leaves behind a high grade soil conditioner.

His scheme involved placing the garbage and the worms in a tube daily.

So far no municipalities have taken him up on the plan. You see, he doesn't say where you get 100 tons of worms in the first place.

And he has no suggestions on how to separate the worms from the finished compost.

I guess you could say there's still a few bugs in it.

The old five-gallon milk pail has to be one of the ultimate re-usable containers. They were put out daily for collection at the farm gate, sterilized and returned.

And they lasted for years.

Cans aren't used as much in these days of bulk milk transport. But the interior decorators took to them.

I've seen them in boutiques with painted-on daisies and inflated prices, for sale as conversation pieces.

And one motel I've stayed in used them as bases for most of their dining and drinking tables. It goes with the Canadiana theme.

Now if the decorators could only get a fad rolling for plastic jugs, metal cans and used bottles...

A Reader information service courtesy of the Ontario Ministry of the Environment.

Out  
Environ.

# Keeping it clean

with Bill Dodds



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FOR RELEASE: September 5, 1972

The old story...

There's nothing new under the sun.

April 5, 1832, The Canadian Freeman carried an article about the state of York Bay, now known as Toronto Harbor and demanding action from the Governor in these words:

"It is really astonishing how the magistrates can allow the horrible nuisance which now appears on the face of this Bay. All the filth of the town--dead horses, dogs, cats, manure, etc. heaped up together on the ice, to drop down, in a few days, into the water which is used by almost all the inhabitants on the Bay shore.

If they have no regard for the health of their fellow-beings, are they not afraid to poison the fish that supply their own tables?

We hope that His Excellency will take cognizance of the state of the Bay from the Garrison down, and see the carrion-broth to which the worshipful magistracy are about to treat the inhabitants when the ice dissolves.

There is not a drop of good well-water about the Market-square, and the people are obliged to use the Bay water however rotten--Instead therefore of corrupting the present bad supply, we think the authorities ought rather adopt measures to supply the town from the pure fountain that springs from the Spadina and Davenport Hill, which could be done at a trifling expense.

There is nothing more conducive to health than good water--nothing more destructive than bad--and what ought the authorities to watch over and protect before the health of the community?"

Of course the Town of York did eventually learn not to heap garbage and filth on the ice of the bay. But, like people all over the world, as they progressed they learned new ways to contaminate their water and air.

The encouraging thing is that there is always somebody like The Canadian Freeman around to point a finger and say, "this is wrong, we should clean it up."

That somebody can be a government inspector, a member of a citizen's action group or a concerned individual.

That somebody, the person who cares, is essential to "the health of the community."



# Keeping it clean

with Bill Dodds



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FOR RELEASE: September 12, 1972

Your small share...

If we divided the world *now*, your share would include four acres of farm, four acres of brush and forest and four more of mountain and waste.

You would get four pounds of uranium, 70 tons of iron, 200 pounds of copper, 50 pounds of lead, 30 pounds of nickel, 4,000 tons of coal and 40,000 gallons of oil or natural gas.

Queen's University professor Reginald Clark worked out the figures for more than 200 high school students attending the second Environment Ontario Straight Goods conference in Kingston August 28-30.

"Think of this as all there is for you, your children and your children's children and you'd probably use it carefully," Dr. Clark told the teen-age delegates from across Ontario.

Provocative ideas, challenging questions and the tough, "Show me" attitude of the young delegates -- That's what makes The Straight Goods work.

The students were invited to draw on the information resources of three dozen representatives of government, industry, education and action groups.

And they were advised from the start not to take anything for granted--not to be little robots taking a party line back to their schools.

They took that advice. Instead of just listening, they did some thinking

and came up with their own viewpoints.

They challenged industry and government for not doing enough.

They challenged a Pollution Probe spokesman on Probe water tests that disagreed with Ontario Health Ministry tests.

They challenged the university for providing throwaway plastic cups and adding to waste.

On this one, they tried to work out an answer on their own.

A note on the informal bulletin board urged students to bring the glasses from their rooms instead of using the throwaway cups.

They heckled each other for using the throwaways.

And they learned that solving problems is not always simple.

The next coffee break, they found glasses were too hot to hold. And the students who used paper napkins to protect their hands were reminded that napkins can be a garbage problem too.

Three days of digging into environmental issues left them convinced that it was not enough to just recommend action on specific problems such as pollution cleanup. They recommended across-the-board change.

One resolution concluded: "We affirm the need for drastic change toward a societal rather than an individual way of life."

And before they left to share what they have learned with their schools, they voted to set up the machinery for another conference next year.

Out  
Evin

# Keeping it clean

CA2 ON  
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with Bill Dodds



September 18, 1972

The beautiful litterbugs...

There's a scene I keep seeing in television commercials advertising various breweries.

It shows a man-- a man's man in the great outdoors with a dew-sparkled, frosty-cold bottle of beer. This he-man type, all-Canadian to the core, with an opener and a delicate but ever-so-masculine twist of the wrist sends the cap spinning off the bottle.

Then the bottle is poured or raised, presumably to the lips.

What bothers me is this. I have never seen this man-- any of the men in these commercials-- bend over to pick that bottle cap up.

As far as that goes, I've never seen a litter bag or even a glimpse of a litter receptacle or trash can in any outdoor commercials for bottled or canned beer or soft drinks.

I think it's about time for advertising to be a bit more conscientious about littering.

Maybe if everyone concerned in a commercial had to walk barefoot along a beautiful sunset-lit beach paved with pop-can pull tabs and bottle caps sharp-side-up...?

And what about the people shown in a countryside setting enjoying the cool, refreshing flavor of their brand-name cigarette? Did you ever see one carrying an

ashtray? What do they do with their cigarette butts?

We can mess up our great outdoors effectively enough without this sort of encouragement from advertising.

I don't want to be critical of the friendly people who bottle your favourite beverage. Generally speaking they do take some interest in what happens to the products and containers they sell.

Brewers Retail stores in Canada cheerfully buy back bottles and cans for the specified deposit. And they get a remarkable return rate-- 97 percent of the bottles and 20 percent of the cans.

And the container industry paralleled Environment Ontario's Litter Campaign with its own Littercheck cleanup program.

I haven't seen enough indication that manufacturers of other consumer products are concerned about the eventual disposal problems their products can create.

We have a personal responsibility for our garbage.

That's something industry and the individual have to learn.

A reader information service courtesy of the  
Ontario Ministry of the Environment.

Out  
Cover

# Keeping it clean

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with Bill Dodds



FOR RELEASE: September 25, 1972

Setting the pace...

Recently, The Toronto Star ran a series of articles on the Great Lakes and pollution control, by staff writer E.H. Hausmann.

One of the articles, on the history of the Ontario Water Resources Commission, now part of the Ministry of the Environment, impressed me so much I asked Mr. Hausmann if I could pass it on to you.

Here it is, in his words:

"If Canada is far ahead of the U.S. in cleaning up the Great Lakes, most credit belongs to the Ontario Water Resources Commission (OWRC), now absorbed into the province's Ministry of the Environment.

The greatest single advantage OWRC had was that it was created very early-- during the dark ages of pollution and water control, back in 1956. By the time that water management and quality became a popular issue in the world 10 years later, OWRC had already gained momentum and was demonstrating that common-sense policies and legislation on a variety of fronts could work. These included the gamut of water quality management: drinking water, farming, municipal sewage, industry, flood control and use of recreation lands.

By 1956, when the OWRC began, increases in population and industry combined with higher living standards had resulted in an ominous formula: Every time population doubled, the province's water demands tripled. Sewage plants designed for

villages suddenly had to serve cities, and water mains designed to serve hundreds had to serve thousands.

Industry's needs grew also--with 70,000 gallons of water needed to make a ton of steel, 200,000 for a ton of newsprint, 500,000 for a ton of aluminum, and even 450 gallons to make a gallon of beer. The strain on postwar water sources was tremendous. Fortunately Ontario decided to do something about it, and the OWRC was formed.

It was given powers virtually unique in North America, and rare in the world. It had the authority to draw up standards, based on new research it carried out. It had the authority to tell municipalities what standards had to be met, and then to help them finance new plants that would meet those standards. It also drew up regulations for industrial effluent, for septic tanks and a host of other areas in which water quality played a part. It was given authority to give expert advice, and to supervise and police its laws.

In the 15 years the plan has been running, all cities in Ontario now have secondary sewage treatment; Windsor was one of the last. The plan is almost complete for Ontario towns, and indeed most communities are well on their way.

The OWRC record in factory clean-up is also impressive, though a great deal of work is yet to be done. OWRC uses the policy of working with industry as an adviser and guide, rather than simply stepping in and shutting down a plant that doesn't conform. It takes longer this way, but upsets the economy far less.

Out  
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# Keeping it clean

*with Bill Dodds*



FOR RELEASE: October 2, 1972

## Operation litterlift...

A group of 22 boys with four leaders all members of the Carstairs lacrosse team trekked nine miles into an Alberta wilderness park last summer.

In the course of a single long weekend in the depths of Banff National Park they collected 2,200 pounds of garbage.

One campsite alone gave up 600 pounds of bottles, cans and broken glass. "I've seen pigstys in better shape than this," one of the boys commented.

It was 35 man-days of hard work for these young people, picking up the offal from lazy or careless campers. Then they had to carry the junk to meadows large enough to allow a helicopter to land.

For some of the boys, this meant lugging 80 pounds of garbage across a river bed and through muskeg.

All this was collected in area where motorized transport is forbidden by law-- The group had to have special permission from Alberta's Director of Parks to run the helicopter from collection points to the Banff-Jasper Highway.

All this was collected from areas frequented by experienced hikers and campers-- People who travel light because they can't drive into their campsite.

These are people you would expect to know better. These are people who should know enough to pack out what they pack in.

It happens in Ontario's wilderness parks too and it still surprises me. The people who believe in getting back to nature should really be trustworthy. We should be able to count on them to preserve what they enjoy.

Maybe people are basically stupid.

You're almost tempted to believe that when you see what they do.

Not long ago, Arizona dug into a roadside litter control campaign. They set up hundreds of litter receptacles and signs in advance reading: "Deposit Litter Ahead One-Quarter Mile".

They had to change the lettering on the signs to read: "Litter Containers One-Quarter Mile."

You guessed it. People took the signs literally and started strewing their waste over quarter mile stretches of roadway as soon as they saw the signs.

Discouraging isn't it.

A Reader information service courtesy of the Ontario Ministry of the Environment.



# Keeping it clean

with Bill Dodds



CA2 ON  
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October 30, 1972



Put out the garbage...

There are warnings printed on cigarette packages. In the U.S., they say smoking may be hazardous to your health. In Canada they say the danger increases with the amount smoked.

There's nothing like that stencilled on your garbage can or on plastic garbage bags.

But warning or not, the danger is there-- to you and to the people who handle your garbage for you.

If you like odd statistics, you might appreciate knowing that the amount of daily lifting done by the average garbage collector is equivalent to raising a full garbage can weighing 35 pounds to the top of the Empire State building.

Studies of occupational hazards among garbage collectors and workers in treatment and disposal operations show a high incidence of muscle and tendon disease, particularly affecting the back. Hernia is another risk of the job.

The hazards to garbage workers also appear to include skin diseases, and a high injury frequency rate, especially involving hand injuries.

But the threats garbage poses don't end there. The open dump is the

most primitive and the simplest method of waste disposal. It's a breeding ground for rats, flies and other carriers of disease, and an attractive feeding ground in some areas for bears.

To cut down its attractiveness to the carriers of disease, or just to cut down the bulk of the garbage, open burning has been practised at some dumps.

At others, there is the result of spontaneous combustion.

And this can bring its own problems. Garbage is an incredible mixture of substances. Fumes from a burning dump can include sulphur, nitrogen and carbon compounds, aldehydes, organic acids and hydrocarbons to name a few.

Analysis of tissues from wild rats living in dumps was compared in one laboratory to tissue analysis from laboratory-raised rats. Generally the wild ones showed higher lead content and a high degree of nuclear inclusions and carcinomas in the kidneys. This was ascribed to continuous exposure to smoke from smoldering refuse in the dumps.

These are some of the reasons for phasing out open dumps as a method of waste disposal.

The major alternative at the moment is sanitary landfill, which involves careful selection of a site, compacting refuse and covering it with clean earth at regular intervals, usually daily.

The Ministry of the Environment is studying refinements to improve this type of waste disposal. One method with a potential for wide application is

grinding-- reducing the waste to a common particle size which cuts volume and offers other advantages.

Another technique under study is compacting and baling, which not only reduces bulk at the disposal site but also can reduce transportation costs.

There are more techniques under study and experiments under way, all with one goal in view-- to dispose of your refuse in the safest possible way.

A reader information service courtesy of the  
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Out  
Evin

# Keeping it clean

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with Bill Dodds



FOR RELEASE: October 23, 1972

Down the track....

I'm feeling pretty virtuous lately.

I've been doing a very Canadian thing, and at the same time I'm cutting back on my personal contribution to air pollution and the depletion of our natural resources.

Instead of sitting alone in a two-ton car in a traffic jam along my 12-mile route to work, I'm riding in comfort on a train.

It's great and it's cheap.

Trainfare is \$1.50 a day for me. I spent that on gasoline without considering wear and tear on the car and the ruinous cost of parking in Toronto.

It's really amazing that more people don't take advantage of commuter services at morning and evening rush hours.

Of course the railways have not been over-anxious to promote passenger service, but as far as I'm concerned it's the only way to commute if the service is available. There's none of the strain in fighting traffic. There's just an easy ride that leaves you free to read the paper, catch up on paperwork or look out the window.

Looking out that window is an education in itself. Main streets and expressways pass the parts of cities and towns that are dressed up for company.



The trains come in the back door and you see the other side-- where the houses and factories aren't beautified.

That's the side where the work gets done and it has a rough vitality you miss when you drive on scenic parkways.

Look at the auto wrecking yard with cranes already piling gutted hulks. The cars in the rush-hour rat race will be in those graveyards before mine.

There's an arc welder spitting sparks at sunrise-- It's like a personal fireworks display.

A deserted school playground, A dip into a ravine with autumn colors and no trace of man,-- There's a lot to see when you don't have to keep your eyes on the road.

The GO lines serve from Oshawa to Hamilton. There are other train services radiating from Toronto to the north, northeast and northwest.

Trains are part of our national heritage. Sir John A. MacDonald used their ribbons of steel to tie Canada together. Just try and feel patriotic about your car. It's American, European or Japanese.

Yes, I feel good about leaving my car at home.

Well, that's not exactly right. Home is about a mile from the train station and-- I hate to admit it-- I drive to the station.

Nobody's perfect.

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Out  
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# Keeping it clean

with Bill Dodds



FOR RELEASE: November 6, 1972

Better to burn?...

As an alternative to sanitary landfill, a number of municipalities have looked to incinerators as the answer to their garbage disposal problems.

Incineration can be an effective way to dispose of garbage, but it has to be controlled to prevent air pollution. This means the installation of, for example, electrostatic precipitators to remove fine particles from the stack emissions, scrubbers to remove sulphur dioxide and other chemical systems to remove other gases.

All this adds to the cost, and all these things kept out of the air become solids, adding to the ash residue that still has to be buried in a landfill.

One potential way of reducing the cost of controlled incineration is to use the heat developed to produce steam for heating or power. But at the moment, this is an alternative involving substantial problems.

It is not likely that such approaches will be practical in North America except in specific limited circumstances. It may be possible to couple incineration to heating facilities for a large, compact, high-density development, especially if refuse handling within the development can be simplified.

In Hamilton, an incinerator has been designed to take ground garbage for more efficient combustion. The ground material has less storage bulk and is easier to handle. The design of the equipment is based on the assumption that most of the ground material will burn in the air in the unit before it falls through the grate. This should result in better combustion and a more stable ash.

In contrast, the pit incinerator is a relatively unsophisticated unit.

This is basically a concrete pit in which waste is burned with a certain degree of control over the emission of burning debris and fine particles through air blowers which set up a rotating current of air in the pit.

The unit is screened with wire mesh and newer units have remote-operated gates.

But these installations are not suitable or acceptable except in limited applications in areas remote from development.

Incinerators, while they cut down the bulk of a city's garbage, do not eliminate the need for landfill. Every municipal installation has a solid residue load that must still be disposed of.

It is impossible to make a general statement on which is best-- incinerators or landfill, the two most popular solutions to waste disposal. The choice of method depends too much on individual circumstances-- land costs, pollution levels and loads among other factors.

Both methods have enough drawbacks to keep experiments going all over North America in composting, separate collection for recycling, mechanical separation of the components of garbage for re-use and other reclamation schemes.

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# Keeping it clean

with Bill Dodds



FOR RELEASE: November 13, 1972

Garbage for heat...

Last week, I said that putting garbage incineration to work for providing heat was largely impractical except in a limited number of specific circumstances.

The City of Nashville, Tennessee, has decided that its downtown core can be served by incineration and it has started to build a \$17 million plant.

This plant is designed to burn solid waste at a high temperature, generating steam for both heating and cooling. For cooling, the steam drives turbines that operate water chiller units.

Like the steam, the chilled water for air conditioning will be piped to 27 downtown buildings.

This sort of system can only work in areas where heat and air conditioning for a number of buildings is provided from a single source.

Nashville feels it can offer the service to these buildings at a price 25 percent below what they would pay for individual heating and cooling.

The city plans to start burning 720 tons of trash daily in 1974, expanding to 1,300 tons a day. Municipal estimates are that the energy from trash-burning will be equivalent to that from 140,000 tons of coal or 20 million gallons of oil.

Of course the plant is designed to burn the waste as efficiently as possible to extract the last quantum of energy, and emission controls will protect the city from air pollution.



Nashville expects a clean ash residue that can be used as fill simply and hopes to find a market for metal reclaimed from the ash.

City officials claim enthusiastically that they can save more than \$1 million a year through more efficient garbage collection.

They estimate that unloading all the trucks at the central plant will save man-hours and some 90,000 miles of driving.

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# Keeping it clean

with Bill Dodds



FOR RELEASE: November 20, 1972

Drops of water...

My kitchen tap was leaking the other day.

I didn't think much of it-- just walked to the hardware store for a tap washer.

But after the repair work was done, I had time to wonder just how much water dripped away during the week or so the tap was leaking.

When I asked at the office, I could hardly believe the answer. They said 1,700 gallons.

That's 170 gallons a day from a slow drip. If it had got worse, to a fast drip, the water waste would have gone as high as 900 gallons.

I started thinking about the water I use, and I discovered that the average toilet uses from five to seven gallons of water every flush. And it doesn't have to. If you fill a plastic bottle with water, weight it with a stone and put it in a corner of the tank where it won't interfere with the operation, you can save an equivalent volume of water every flush.

When you spend five to 10 minutes under the shower, 50 to 100 gallons of water go down the drain. A normal tubful uses about 25 gallons.

And to think that a few years ago, when we depended on a well for my family, I thought by showering we saved water and money-- the well went dry from time to time and we had to buy water.

When you have to depend on your own water supply, you think about saving it. The person who depends on a well, doesn't use half of the 150 gallons a day that flows past and through the average big city dweller.

Isn't that something? 150 gallons--and the human body needs about half a gallon a day of drinking water.

Still, the amount we use individually is insignificant when we look at the quantities used in our industrial processes.

A ton of paper requires up to 65,000 gallons of water in its production.

A ton of steel requires up to 19,000 gallons. And about 700 gallons of water are used to process one barrel of crude oil.

It gives you some idea how fortunate we are to have our abundant supply of water.

It also gives us all some incentive for making sure that our supply of water stays clean and pure.

We may get even thirstier.

A Reader information service courtesy of the  
Ontario Ministry of the Environment.

Out  
Envision

# Keeping it clean

CA2 ON  
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with Bill Dodds



FOR RELEASE: November 27, 1972

Troubled waters...

A lot of things happen when oil is accidentally spilled on a living stream or lake-- none of them pleasant.

The oil coats the gills of any fish trapped in the spill. Smaller or slower fish are particularly susceptible. The oil-coated gills no longer catch oxygen for the blood stream and the fish suffocates.

The fish that aren't trapped are just repelled. They leave and they don't come back.

The oil sticks to food particles and, swallowed by small fish, damages internal tissue.

As it sinks to the bottom, it destroys eggs on a spawning bed and makes the bed useless for years.

The havoc a major oil spill can wreak on waterfowl can be so extensive as to almost endanger a whole species. Oil clogs feathers, destroying their water repellant qualities.

Some become waterlogged. They sink and drown. Others make it to the shore, but the oil-clogged feathers have no insulating quality. The bird's metabolic rate speeds up to maintain its body temperature and when the body's fat reservoir is exhausted, the bird dies from the cold.

In 1970, the U.S. coast guard recorded 3,335 oil spills of a total 15 million gallons. And as sea-going oil carriers get larger, the potential for damage grows.

That's why there is so much concern on the part of Ontario and other governments.

Of course the best way to clean up an oil spill is to prevent it before it happens. Experiments, like the double-hull tankers now being tested by industry, hold out some hope for the future.

And cleanup techniques are constantly being revised and improved. The U.S. environmental protection agency is building an artificial ocean to work on its oil spill techniques. This 2.6 million-gallon test tank, with wave-makers, will simulate spills so the effectiveness of booms, new skimmers and other devices can be evaluated.

Because, in environmental terms especially, oil and water don't mix.

A Reader information service courtesy of the  
Ontario Ministry of the Environment.

# Keeping it clean

CA2 ON  
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K22

with Bill Dodds



FOR RELEASE: December 4, 1972

To El' with it...

Sooner or later, every motorist stuck in a jammed-up city expressway gets to the state where he asks himself:

"How did I get in this mess and where the Hell do I go from here?"

Well, in Ontario, the answer was made clear just over a week ago by Premier William Davis. The El' is where we go from here.

Elevated, electrically powered transit systems hold a lot of the answers to city transportation problems. Expressways, the safe and efficient system for connecting cities and towns, grow a lot of defects when they move inside city limits. They are expensive for the amount of traffic they move. They encourage automobile commuting to the point where they overload during rush hours.

And they bring the sight, sounds, smell and air pollution of traffic to impose on residential areas.

They are a major factor in urban noise alone. The Ministry of the Environment has found that traffic noise is the single greatest source of noise pollution complaints. And Ontario and Toronto found by experiment that sound barriers along expressways are largely ineffective in muffling traffic sounds.

The major problems with subways are high cost-- prohibitive according to Premier Davis-- and serious disruption of traffic and urban amenities during their construction.

The latest transit systems, now being explored for use in Ontario's cities, avoid these problems.

They are universally powered by electric motors, which produce no air pollution at the point of use. And coupled with the quietness of electric motors, we have rubber tire, air cushion or magnetic support systems which produce little sound.

The new systems, at a distance of 50 feet, should be no noisier than the average room air conditioner.

With this low noise, low pollution characteristic, it is feasible to carry this new wave of urban transit into cities on elevated guideways-- lightweight structures with slender columns and long span lengths that can pass over land without using more than a few square feet here and there for pillar footings.

They can pass over existing streets or over ribbons of green-- linear parks developed along their routes to make them even more attractive.

More than a decade ago, because of noise, unsightliness and general disrepair, New York tore down it's last El'. They didn't know then that these problems would be solved and that the Elevated would again come into its own.

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FOR RELEASE: December 11, 1972

Of all things...

I heard the other day that when you cut your lawn, the dying and decaying grass produces more carbon monoxide than running your V-8 car a mile.

Of course, the decaying grass takes a lot more time to put out that amount of gas, but if you add in the racket and fumes your power mower makes, who knows?

Maybe the lawn doesn't really need cutting quite so often.

Then again, maybe you don't have to drive your car quite so much. Walking doesn't pollute the air.

I've run across a lot of fish stories lately. You might be interested in some of them.

Two tire manufacturers in the U.S. have put their discards to use in a 17,000-tire reef off Marco Island, Florida. This reef is sheltering at least 33 species of fish and local fishing parties have scored record catches. The tire companies are asking the U.S. Government to let them build another reef. It gets rid of their waste in a useful way.

Three British Columbia scientists have been working to make the big one that got away even bigger. They have been dumping common garden fertilizer into Great Central Lake, near Nanaimo, to help boost fish growth. They claim a yearly growth increase of 30 percent in sockeye salmon.

It's a centuries-old technique. The Chinese used to dump sewage in their fish ponds to make fish grow. And it seems to work with lakes low in nutrients.

In the B.C. experiment, now in its third year, five tons of fertilizer is dumped over the water each week. So far, the only side-effect is a possible increase in the number of parasites.

In the James River, the problem was not to provide homes for fish or food to make them grow.



The Virginia Electric and Power Company ran into real trouble with fish entering the coolant water intakes at their nuclear power plant there. When other measures failed, the company wired up underwater loudspeakers to blare rock music at full volume down the pipes.

So far it works-- no more fish in the intakes.

You know, that must be some sort of a record-- three fish stories and not one lie in the lot.

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FOR RELEASE: December 18, 1972

A Christmas story...

In another world, it happened too late— two centuries too late.

The star was there, blazing bright in the heavens. In another earth, another time, it was the guide.

The kings were there, but they had no gold, frankincense or myrrh and their eyes were not turned to the heavens. These kings had steel, soft coal and hard cash. Their eyes were on the cash and all their heavens had to offer were black clouds, choking fumes and poisons.

They never saw stars in the East.

In those lands there were no shepherds and no sheep.

Men bred beasts with test tubes, force-feeding with hormones and slaughtering in food factories the beasts that never saw sun...never breathed air.

And the din of machines in the dingy buildings drowned out even the heavenly host. And the scarred eardrums of men were deaf to celestial song.

A man and his wife were travelling in those lands— travelling to be numbered at their king's command. For everyone in that world of teeming humanity needed an abundance of numbers to work, to be unemployed, to travel, to communicate -- even to exist.

The woman was great with child. They arrived late and because they were not yet numbered, they were turned away from the hospital and refused room at the inn.



The best they could do was a garage with a grease pit. With no animals, there were no mangers and no stables.

The birth was difficult-- a simple, clumsy man had no skills to ease a sickly woman's pain.

Later, in a stillness, both mother and child were coughing.

As I said, it was another world at the wrong time. In so many ways it could not be saved.

At this time of the year especially, I thank God ours could and can.

Merry Christmas.

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# Keeping it clean

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with Bill Dodds



FOR RELEASE: December 27, 1972

Looking back...

It's been a good year. I've met a lot of people who care about the health of the world they live in and I've seen a lot done to improve it.

There was the Ontario Weekly Newspapers Association convention last February-- newspapermen, on the whole, get involved in their communities and the quality of life. It was nice to meet so many of them.

Then our horizons broadened at the Department of the Environment merging with the Ontario Water Resources Commission to form the Ministry of the Environment-- one team to work together on all aspects of pollution control.

With the merger came a new Minister, the Hon. James Auld, and a new deputy minister, Everett Biggs. Mr. Biggs represented Ontario at the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, the major environmental event of the year.

That conference may even prove to be one of the major events of the decade-- the first gathering of world powers to consider the problems of the world environment. While the conference in Stockholm had no power to enforce its views, it was the first real opportunity for establishing a consensus of world opinion on the dangers facing us from pollution and the depletion of resources.

From it, a global "Earthwatch" network was a major recommendation -- a world-wide monitoring system for atmospheric, terrestrial, marine and health hazards.

And over the past year on the Ontario scene, pollution control work is speeding up and legislation and regulations are being tightened to improve their effectiveness.

The air in the cities is getting steadily cleaner, and Lake Erie and Lake Ontario have definitely turned the corner on their way to recovery. Just a few weeks ago, Toronto's Harbor Commissioners cheerfully announced that fish life was returning to Toronto's waterfront.



And, while pollution control systems are well under way in Sudbury, Environment Ontario has just begun a comprehensive look at the environment in that area -- a study project on a scale that has never been attempted before in the world. Environment Canada has been invited to join that detailed project.

There are literally hundreds of other things I could mention without even beginning to cover 1972.

But that was last year. Just wait till you see what's coming next.

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